

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

#### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-5, 12, 13, 15 and 17 are pending of which claims 1, 15 and 17 are independent. Claims 1-3, 5, 12, 13, 15 and 17 stand rejected. Claim 4 is objected to<sup>1</sup> but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claims 1, 15 and 17 are amended. Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1, 12, 15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,912,720 to Berger et al. ("Berger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,361,170 to Bille ("Bille"). Claims 2, 3, 5 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Berger in view of Bille, and further in view of the admitted prior art ("AAPA").

As indicated above, claims 1, 15 and 17 have been amended each reciting the features of claim 4 indicated as allowable.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 15 and 17 as amended is believed allowable for at least the similar reasons as in claim 4.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

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<sup>1</sup> Page ten (10) of the Final Office Action.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above (i.e., by incorporating the allowable features of claim 4 to independent claims 1, 15 and 17). These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Also, Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of all of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

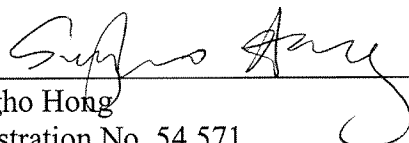
**AUTHORIZATION**

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5360). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: October 6, 2008

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**AUTHORIZATION**

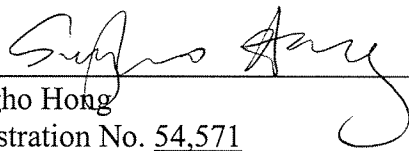
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